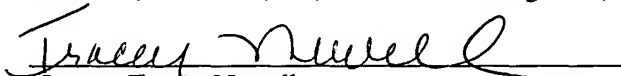


**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|             |                                                                                                         |   |                          |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Applicant:  | Kenneth W. COWAN                                                                                        | : |                          |
|             |                                                                                                         | : |                          |
| Serial No.: | To be assigned                                                                                          | : | Examiner: To be assigned |
|             |                                                                                                         | : |                          |
| Filed:      | August 21, 2003                                                                                         | : | Art Unit: To be assigned |
|             |                                                                                                         | : |                          |
| For:        | <b>MANAGING HARDWARE<br/>AND SOFTWARE<br/>CONFIGURATION<br/>INFORMATION OF SYSTEMS<br/>BEING TESTED</b> | : | Atty. Docket: NUM-02502  |
|             |                                                                                                         | : |                          |
|             |                                                                                                         | : |                          |
|             |                                                                                                         | : |                          |

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that the foregoing document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express mail, postage prepaid, "Post Office to Addressee", in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450 on August 21, 2003.

  
Name: Tracey Newell  
Express Mail Label No.: EV 322608944 US

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-captioned U.S. patent application, Applicant submits the following Amendment and Remarks.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page **3** of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page **12** of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page **24** of this paper and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page **25** of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page **25** of this paper.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required for consideration of this paper (including fees for net addition of claims) are authorized to be charged in two originally-executed copies of an Amendment Transmittal Letter filed herewith.